(d) the percentage of BPL families in relation to total population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Planning Commission assesses the percentage of persons living below the poverty line using an exogenously determined poverty line. The poverty line is defined as *per capita* consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. This corresponds to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of *per capita* daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty line, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and State levels from large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 2004-05 based on the National Sample Survey Data on consumer expenditure of the 61st Round. As such, the estimates of BPL families as on 31st December, 2007 are not available. As per the latest estimates, 27.5% of the people in the country are estimated to live below the poverty line in 2004-05.

(c) The yardstick to separate poor from the total population is based on persons and not on families. The poverty line, which is used as the yardstick are different in rural and urban areas. The national poverty line in 2004-05 is measured as consumption expenditure of Rs. 356.30 *per capita* per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 *per capita* per month in the urban areas.

(d) As per the latest available estimate made by the Planning Commission, 27.5% of the total population of the country lived below the poverty line in 2004-05. The estimate of BPL families is not available.

Partnerships to face developmental challenges

1120. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering corporate-community-Government-Non- Governmental Organisation partnerships to face the developmental challenge of the country;

(b) if so, the action Government has taken so far to this effect;

(c) whether it is a fact that metropolises are lacking in infrastructure to meet the challenge of development; and

(d) if so, the action Government is taking to signal all the metropolises to face developmental challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Government has considered the corporate-community-Government- Non-Governmental Organization partnerships to face the developmental challenge

of the country. In this regard, the National Policy on the Voluntary Sector — 2007, available on the website of the Planning Commission (*http://www.planningcommission.gov.in/data/ngo/npvo107.pdf*), "affirms the growing need for collaboration with the voluntary sector by the Government, as well as by the private sector, at the local, provincial and national levels." (para 1.2). The National Policy further States that the voluntary sector can play an important role in the development process, particularly through community participation. It is therefore essential that the Government and the Voluntary Sector work together. Where feasible, such partnership may also include other entities such as *panchayati raj* institutions, municipalities, academic institutions and private sector organisations (para 5.1). The Eleventh Plan proposes a strategy for infrastructure development which involves a combined response — an increase in public sector investment in infrastructure and also an increase in private sector investment through some form of public-private partnership (PPP) or directly, where feasible. Emphasis on the PPP in investment for physical infrastructure development is one of the Thrust Areas of the Eleventh Plan. Copy of the National Policy has been forwarded to State/UT Governments and Departments/Ministries concerned for implementing recommendations of the Policy. Many States have initiated steps to operationalize the PPP models.

(c) and (d) Yes, it is a fact that metropolises are lacking in infrastructure to meet the challenge of development. To improve the infrastructure in metropolises, Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December, 2005. There are four components under JNNURM: (A) For 63 Mission Cities: (i) Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) and (ii) Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP); (B) For Non-Mission Cities: (i) Urban Infrastructure Scheme in Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and (ii) Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

Letter regarding Hyderabad Metro

1121. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chairman, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC) has written a letter to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 11th September, 2008 regarding Hyderabad Metro;

(b) if so, the points raised in the letter; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the basis of the letter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A letter dated 11.09.08 from Managing Director, DMRC addressed to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission had been received. The points raised in this letter were broadly on issues relating to the policy of construction and operation of Metro Rail projects in metropolitan cities and some issues pertaining to the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project.

Managing Director, DMRC has been informed that as per the decision taken by Ministry of Urban Development communicated *vide* their letter no. K-14011/01/2005- Metro dated April 26,